



July 31, 2018

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street,
SW Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by
Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment (WT Docket
No. 17-79)**

Dear FCC Commissioners, I write to you today as a member of
the City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Charlotte is one of America's fastest growing cities. As a member
of the Economic Development Committee for the city, I am
working every day to ensure Charlotte thrives with diverse
businesses and economic opportunity for all. This work ranges
from job training programs to targeted business and neighborhood
development, all with a focus on fostering economic success for
everyone in our communities.

Technology is an increasingly important component in our work.
One of the city's initial smart city projects, Envision Charlotte,
used sensors and data to reduce energy usage in our urban core
buildings by almost 20 percent in the last eight years, the
equivalent of taking over 11,000 cars off North Carolina's roads.

This is just one of the many upgrades and technological improvements we're seeing in Charlotte. Among others is the addition of small cells to our streetlights, phone poles, et cetera. This modern wireless infrastructure is a critical part of the backbone of the next- generation of wireless, which will help make us a more sustainable city – allowing us to better manage the flow of traffic and solve problems like people circling the block to find parking spots among others.

However, getting this infrastructure out in a timely manner can be a challenge that involves considerable time and financial resources. The solution is to streamline relevant policies – allowing more modern rules for modern infrastructure.

I am encouraged that the FCC is focused on this, but it can't act alone. Updating and modernizing rules at the federal, state, and local levels – along with public-private partnerships – will help residents, tourists, and businesses experience the benefits of 5G.

Thank you for taking comments on this issue. We would welcome a visit from the Commission to Charlotte to show and discuss some of our upcoming initiatives.

Sincerely,

LaWana Mayfield